

AROUND THE HOUSE

HOUSING DEPARTMENT SETS RECORD FOR GRANT AWARDS IN 2003

The City of Wichita Housing Services Department won a record amount in grants in 2003. The department garnered over \$1 million dollars in new funds for public housing programs, permanent housing, supportive services and emergency shelter grants this year through the following grants.

Kansas Housing Resources Corporation

Grant Award: \$60,039.

Six (6) area homeless shelter providers will use these funds for operations, essential services, homeless prevention and rehabilitation of their shelters.

U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Shelter Plus Care

Grant Award: \$632,100.

100 homeless individuals with disabilities will be provided permanent housing.

YWCA and the Target East Store

Grant Award: \$4,000.

Family Self Sufficiency program participants will be provided a series of family violence prevention workshops

U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - Housing Choice Voucher Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS)

Grant Award: \$106,991.

This will fund the renewal of two (2) Family Self-Sufficiency program coordinator staff positions.

U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - Resident Opportunities and Sufficiency (ROSS) Elderly

Grant Award: \$200,000.

This 3-year grant will provide support services to help elderly and persons with disabilities that live in Greenway Manor, McLean Manor, Rosa Gregg, and Bernice Hutcherson to lead independent lives

Applying for and receiving these grant monies will give us the ability to continue, expand and/or enhance our services, since most, if not all, of our federal funding is earmarked for specific housing needs. With the federal economy still recovering, it is essential for us to search out grant opportunities like those listed in order to provide services that benefit *all* Wichita Housing Services Department clients.

NEW INCOME VERIFICATION SYSTEM ARRIVES

The City of Wichita Housing Authority, which includes Section 8 and Public Housing Programs, is participating as a test site for the Department of HUD's new income verification system. The system is sponsored by the Office of Public and Indian Housing. The Upfront Income Verification System (UIV) provides a single source of income-related data to public housing agencies for use in verifying the income reported by tenants in the various assisted housing programs administered by programs across the nation. The system supports income verification processes by comparing wage data from state and national databases to tenant-supplied income information during the recertification process for the

calculation of monthly rental amounts of subsidized program clients. In other words, Section 8 Leasing Specialists and Public Housing Property Managers will have the newest tools in verifying the income of their clients and will be able to detect income reporting fraud through the new system which is available to them 24 hours a day - 7 days a week on the new internet site.

Clients will not notice much of a change in the income recertification process as long as they are reporting all of their income to their Leasing Specialist or Property Manager. Income information handled by the UIV system includes wage and income data about private individuals, as well as identifying information such as social

security number, address and employment information. The UIV system with related policy and procedures has implemented protective measures to ensure that this private data is used for official purposes only and not disclosed in any way that would violate the privacy of the individuals represented in the system data. Privacy of data and data security for computer systems are covered by a variety of federal laws, regulations, government bulletins and other guiding documents. They include the Privacy Act of 1974. This new system is another step in HUD's progress in improving income integrity.

Why is income integrity so important and critical to HUD? Lack of income integrity

(Continued on page 6)

WHISCAT HEALTH FAIR

The WHISCAT program, (Wichita Housing Initiative for Service Coordination and Transportation), funded by the Resident Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) grant from HUD, held a Health Fair this Fall at Greenway Manor. Nancy Mehl, the WHISCAT

Site Coordinator, organized the fair for the senior and disabled residents of the Wichita Housing Authority. The fair focused on topics such as fall prevention, living independently, medication safety, and help with incontinence.

Those in attendance were able to sign up to receive prize giveaways, enjoy refreshments and collect lots of free information!

We want to say thank you to all that attended and we hope that you found the information presented to you helpful.



Housing Leasing Specialists Michelle Turner and Diane Boyd, and Housing Inspector James Jemerson, were awarded the NAHRO Section 8 Housing Manager certification in September.

Congratulations Housing Managers!



The All Saints Home Care, Inc. staff assists some of our residents.



Nancy Mehl, WHISCAT director, and McLean resident Nadine Wait



Leta Smith, Greenway Manor resident, visits a booth.

LANDLORD'S HAP PAYMENT SCHEDULE

<i>Month</i>	<i>Mail Date</i>
JANUARY	JANUARY 2, 2004
FEBRUARY	JANUARY 30, 2004
MARCH	FEBRUARY 27, 2004
APRIL	MARCH 30, 2004
MAY	APRIL 30, 2004
JUNE	MAY 28, 2004
JULY	JUNE 29, 2004
AUGUST	JULY 30, 2004
SEPTEMBER	AUGUST 31, 2004
OCTOBER	SEPTEMBER 28, 2004
NOVEMBER	OCTOBER 29, 2004
DECEMBER	NOVEMBER 30, 2004
JANUARY	JANUARY 3, 2005
FEBRUARY	JANUARY 28, 2005

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SECTION 8 CLIENTS

SECTION 8 PROCEDURES YOU MUST KNOW

REPORTING INCOME DEADLINE

Reporting income changes is required within fourteen (14) days. Section 8 program clients will be required to report any household income changes to their leasing specialist within fourteen (14) days.

PROMISSORY NOTE

Section 8 Office no longer has the authorization to enter into a promissory agreement with clients to repay under stated income or failure to provide income information.

UNDER REPORTED INCOME RESULTING IN OVER PAID ASSISTANCE

Section 8 clients under reporting income will be required to immediately pay all overpaid assistance. The Housing Authority will not have the ability to enter into repayment agreements for over paid assistance.

Program clients who fail to immediately pay over paid assistance will be terminated from the Section 8 program. In addition, the Housing Authority will initiate collection activities, and will report non-payment of the debt to the Credit Bureau.

There will be no tolerance for understated or under-reported income. Failure to report income can jeopardize your rental assistance and lead up to immediate termination.

DEFINITION OF INCOME

Income is defined as all sources (money, cash or checks) received by the family head of household, spouse, or other members within the household over 18 years old. Listed below are sources of income:

- Employment
- Employment Promotion
- Own Business
- Part-Time Job
- Overtime Payment Received on the Job

- Increase in Job Hours or Pay
- Military Pay
- Unemployment Benefit
- Child Support
- New Job
- Child over 18 or other adult employment
- Pension
- Social Security
- Supplement Security Income (SSI or SSID)
- General Assistance
- Cash received by another person such as family/friend on consistent basis
- Self-employment
- Cash received from providing services. For example: mowing lawns, hairstyling, cutting hair, automobile/truck repairs, and housekeeping. **Receiving cash for these types of services is consider self-employment.**
- Payments being made on the family's behalf by someone else. For example, someone else (paid) paying your phone bill, utilities, etc.)

The items described above are considered to be income.

Any money or cash received by you or family members over the age of 18 **must be reported to the Section 8 office immediately.** Further, it is your responsibility to report all income during the annual re-certification process. Changes in income received by you or family members following re-certification must be reported immediately.

It is your responsibility to report all income during the annual recertification process.

Changes in income received by you or your family members following re-certification must be reported immediately.

**Section 8
Clients
TAKE
NOTE!**

**Section 8
Clients
TAKE
NOTE!**

**Section 8
Clients
TAKE
NOTE!**

FAMILY SELF SUFFICIENCY HOLDS GRADUATION & AWARDS CEREMONY

The Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program celebrated their year-end accomplishments with a graduation and reflections ceremony on December 11, 2003 at the Wichita Boathouse. Ten graduates were recognized for completing their FSS contracts and final goals.

☆ Nannette Newhouse

Successful completion of the FSS program occurs when a family has fulfilled all of its responsibilities under the FSS contract or 30% of the family's monthly adjusted income equals or is greater than the Fair Market Rent amount for the unit size for which the

Congratulations Graduates!

- ☆ Harry Anderson
- ☆ Sharon Askew
- ☆ Deanna Barber-Black
- ☆ Angela Conway
- ☆ Crysta Gulley
- ☆ Ruby Hollimon
- ☆ Lakelia Hughes
- ☆ Angela Jones
- ☆ Winifred McPherson



Graduates proceed to the podium to receive their diplomas.



Our graduates.



Lakelia Hughes and her fellow graduates



Winifred McPherson and Nannette Newhouse support their fellow graduates.



Vallery Fields, FSS Coordinator, presents Nannette

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Two FSS clients received special recognition awards. Ms. **Casey Branch** received the “Courage” award for continuing to actively participate in the FSS program after enduring a tragedy. Mrs. **Nannette Newhouse** received the award for “Perseverance” for her dili-

gence in handling personal business matters, participating in FSS program activities and continuing to work (including overtime) while being diagnosed with cancer, having surgery and subsequent chemotherapy and radiation treatments and raising her five children. Ms. Newhouse is a shining exam-

ple of a spirit of will and determination to succeed against all odds. Ms. Newhouse was also recognized as the highest achiever in escrow earned through FSS. Congratulations to Casey Branch, Nannette Newhouse and all of the FSS graduates for their accomplishments this year!

PROGRAM COORDINATING COMMITTEE RECOGNIZED

FSS would like to recognize the Program Coordinating Committee members for their service this past year.

- Kimberly Lindsay
Power CDC
- Amanda Atwood
FSS Participant
- June Bailey
Community Housing
- Paris Blake
Marriage/Family Therapist

- Diana Combs
Mental Health Association
- Wess Galyon
Wichita Area Builders Assoc.
- Teketa Harding
Capital Federal
- Margaret Harris
WATC Dunbar Campus
- Sandra Lyon
Episcopal Social Services

- Paul Meals
Wichita Area SRS
- Sgt. Alex Robinson
Wichita Police Dept.
- Cliff Sones
Wichita Independent Business Assoc.
- Jan Tuttle
- Janet Lloyd-Williams
Intrust Bank

SPECIAL THANKS TO AREA BUSINESSES AND SUPPORTERS

FSS would like to recognize the facilitators and community supporters, for their service this past year.

- ◆ Applebee’s
- ◆ James Arbertha
Power CDC
- ◆ Amanda Atwood
- ◆ Debra Benson
- ◆ Doreen Tucker-Bey
- ◆ Paris Blake
- ◆ Michelle Carson
Wichita Area Technical College
- ◆ Lucinda Contreras
Manpower Staffing
- ◆ Angela Conway
- ◆ Kelly Garst

- ◆ Deputy Gill
Sedgwick Cty. Sheriff Dept.
- ◆ Margaret Harris
WATC Dunbar Campus
- ◆ Mary Holden
- ◆ Katrinka Ivie
- ◆ Judge Jennifer Jones
Municipal Court
- ◆ LaQuinta Inn Downtown
- ◆ Northrock Theatres
- ◆ Kenneth Palmer Bonding Company
- ◆ Chiann Porter
Thunderbird Bus Company
- ◆ Officer Johnny Parker
Wichita Police Department
- ◆ Lynn Patton
District Court Advocate

- ◆ Tim Cunningham
Stepstones
- ◆ Delana Renfro
KWCH Channel 12
- ◆ Rev. Clyde Samilton
- ◆ Single Source
- ◆ Staffmark
- ◆ Sweet Basil
- ◆ Target Stores
- ◆ Marilyn Toellner
Sedgwick Cty. Exten. Ofc.
- ◆ Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center
- ◆ Janet Lloyd-Williams
Intrust Bank
- ◆ YWCA Women’s Crisis Center & Safehouse

*Eighty percent (80%) of
FSS Graduates are now
homeowners!*

Wichita Housing Services Department

332 N. Riverview

Phone: 316/268-4688

Fax: 316/268-4219



PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage

PAID

Wichita, Kansas
Permit No. 923

Published by:
City of Wichita
Housing Services
Department
www.wichita.gov/housing
316/268-4688

Editor:
Maryann Wynn

Contributors:
Tom Byler
Vallery Fields
Gail Lotson
Deborah Moore
Donna Sanchez
Maryann Wynn

HOMEOWNER CHECKLIST



January

- ◇ Clean furnace filter
- ◇ Check furnace fan belt
- ◇ Check water heater
- ◇ Check exhaust fans
- ◇ Clean range hood filter
- ◇ Clean humidifier
- ◇ Remove snow and ice from roof overhang/vents
- ◇ Test smoke alarms and CO detectors
- ◇ Locate squeaky stairs, floors, doors, and repair.
- ◇ Maintain plumbing fixtures and water appliances
i.e. garbage disposal, dishwasher, clothes washer,
aerators, etc.

- ◇ Clean refrigerator coils, range
hood vent, and clothes dryer vent
- ◇ Patch dings in wallboard and woodwork

February

- ◇ Clean furnace filter
- ◇ Clean range hood filter
- ◇ Check inside surfaces
- ◇ Inspect underside of roof for damage.
- ◇ Thoroughly clean refrigerator, freezer, and oven/
range.
- ◇ Start a home maintenance record.
- ◇ Plan garden by studying seed catalogs

(Continued from page 1)

requires housing authorities to investigate the source and extent of errors and it requires interim reexaminations resulting in retroactive rent or termination of housing benefits. When income integrity exists, HUD uses its dollars more efficiently and can better serve those families in need of affordable housing.

In the past, HUD was criticized for weaknesses in its data systems. Complete and accurate reporting of family data, including income, is a step in the right direction towards stronger data systems. Without income integrity, Congress and Federal auditors lack confidence in housing authority subsidy requests and lack confidence in the ability to run assisted housing programs in an efficient manner. Ultimately, program clients will do themselves a favor by making sure that the income and expense amounts that are reported to Leasing Specialists and Property Managers is correct the first time in the recertification process.

We're on the Web!
[www.wichita.gov/
housing](http://www.wichita.gov/housing)